Data may have been updated since publication. For the most current information, see www.ers.usda.gov/publications/agoutlook/aotables/.

Farm, Rural, and Natural Resources Indicators

	1990	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	Annual percent change 1990-2000	2002-03	2003-04
Cash receipts ($ billion)	169.5	192.0	199.8	192.9	212.4f	215.0f	1.3	10.1	1.2
Crops	80.3	92.4	93.4	99.5	106.7f	114.3f	1.4	7.2	7.1
Livestock	89.2	99.5	106.4	93.5	105.6f	100.7f	1.1	12.9	-4.6
Direct government payments ($ billion)	9.3	22.9	20.7	11.0	17.4f	10.3f	9.4	58.2	-40.8
Gross cash income ($ billion)	186.9	228.6	235.3	219.4	244.9f	240.9f	2.0	11.6	-1.6
Net cash income ($ billion)	52.7	56.5	59.2	49.1	63.0f	55.9f	0.7	28.3	-11.3
Net value added ($ billion)	80.8	92.0	94.2	76.9	98.9f	93.0f	1.3	28.6	-6.0
Farm equity ($ billion)	702.6	1,025.6	1,070.1	1,110.7f	1,160.5f	1,198.1f	3.9	4.5	3.2
Farm debt-asset ratio	16.4	14.8	14.8	14.8f	14.7f	14.6f	-1.0	-0.7	-0.7
Farm household income ($/farm household)	38,237	61,947	64,117	65,757	67,453f	66,732f	4.9	2.6	-1.1
Farm household income relative to average U.S. household income (%)	103.1	108.6	110.2	113.7	na	na	0.5	na	na
Nonmetro-Metro difference in poverty rate (%)	3.6	2.6	3.1	2.6	2.1	na	-3.2	-19.2	na
Cropland harvested (million acres)	310	314	311	307	314p	na	0.1	2.3	na
USDA conservation program expenditures ($ bil.)[1]	3.0	3.4	3.7	3.5q	na	na	1.3	na	na

Food and Fiber Sector Indicators

U.S. gross domestic product ($ billion current)[2]	5,803	9,825	10,082	10,446	10,863f	na	5.4	4.0	na
Food and fiber share (%)	15.1	12.6	12.3	na	na	na	-1.8	na	na
Farm sector share (%)	1.4	0.8	0.8	0.8	na	na	-5.4	na	na
Total agricultural imports ($ billion)[1]	22.7	38.9	39.0	41.0	45.7	52.5	5.5	11.5	14.9
Total agricultural exports ($ billion)[1]	40.3	50.7	52.7	53.3	56.2	62.0	2.3	5.4	10.3
Export share of the volume of U.S. agricultural production (%)	27.1	22.8	22.9	22.5	21.1p	na	-1.7	-6.2	na
CPI for food (1982-84=100)	132.4	167.9	173.1	176.2	180.0	186.4f	2.4	2.2	3.6
Share of U.S. disposable income spent on food (%)	11.2	10.1	10.2	10.1	10.1	na	-1.0	0.0	na
Share of total food expenditures for at-home consumption (%)	55.4	53.3	53.9	53.8	53.1	na	-0.4	-1.3	na
Farm-to-retail price spread (1982-84=100)	144.5	210.3	215.4	221.2	na	na	3.8	na	na
Total USDA food and nutrition assistance spending ($ billion)[1]	24.9	32.6	34.2	38.0	41.8	na	2.7	10.0	na

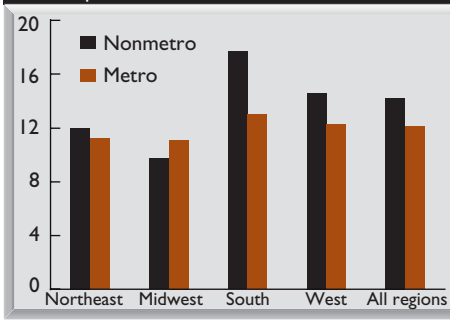
f = Forecast. p = Preliminary. q = 2002 Administration request. na = Not available.

[1] Based on October-September fiscal years ending with year indicated.

[2] Forecast for 2003 based on the Office of Management and Budget's Midsession Budget Review, July 2003.

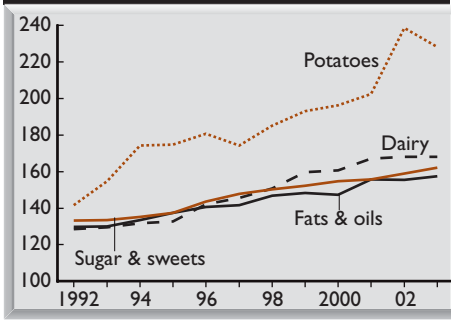
Nonmetro-metro difference in poverty rates is largest in the South, 2003

Percent poor

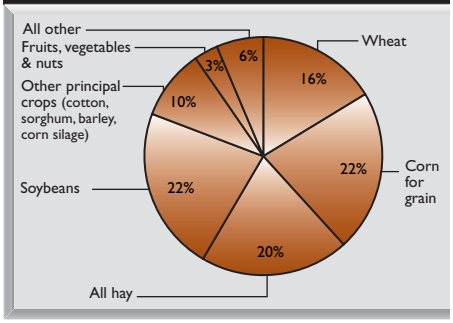


Consumer price indexes for selected foods consumed at home

1982-84 = 100



Crops harvested in 2003 as a share of total U.S. cropland harvested



For more information, see www.ers.usda.gov/amberwaves/

Behind the Data

Estimating U.S. Cropland Area

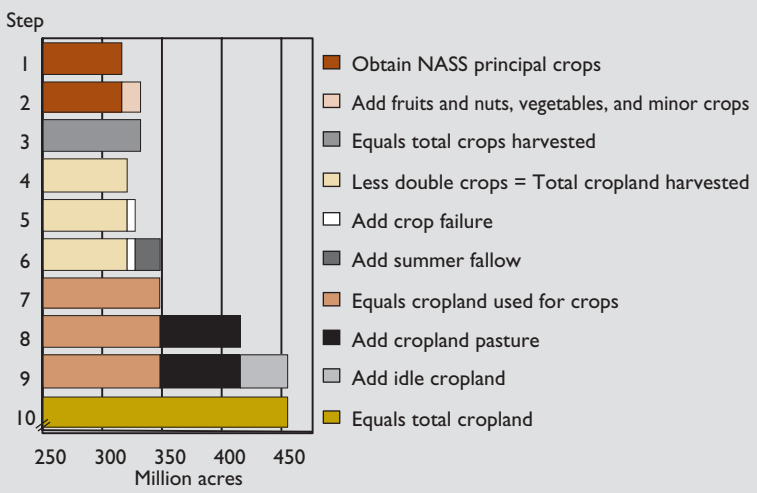
Measuring cropland area is essential for assessing the economic and environmental performance of U.S. agriculture. ERS tracks cropland in its annual "cropland used for crops" data series, which began in 1910. Cropland used for crops is the sum of cropland harvested, crop failure, and summer fallow. (Total cropland is part of the ERS Major Land Use series, started in 1945, that accounts for all land use in the 50 States.)

The data behind the ERS cropland series come from the *Crop Production Annual Summary* published by USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS). This survey includes harvested acres of principal crops, the predominant field crops in U.S. agriculture. In 2003, 21 principal crops accounted for about 95 percent of all harvested crop acreage in the United States, but just four crops—corn, soybeans, wheat, and hay—accounted for about 80 percent of all cropland harvested acreage.

The acreages of other crops (fruits and nuts, vegetables, and minor crops), which are published every 5 years by the U.S. Census of Agriculture and change little from one census year to the next, are added to the acres of principal crops to derive total crops harvested. In 2002, "other crops" comprised over 40 other crops plus nursery and greenhouse products. While these crops take up relatively little acreage, they can account for large market value shares of sales.

The *Crop Production Annual Summary* report counts all acres harvested, including double cropping. However, each cropland acre can only be counted once; thus, double cropping is subtracted from total crops harvested because cropland used for crops becomes part of the ERS *Major Land Use* series, which must sum to total U.S. land area. The result is total cropland harvested. Most double cropping occurs when soybeans are planted after the harvest of small grains (mainly wheat) in the same year, and these estimates are from the annual NASS acreage report published in June. Smaller acreages of other crops are also double cropped, and these estimates are from the Census of Agriculture.

Estimating U.S. cropland area, 1997

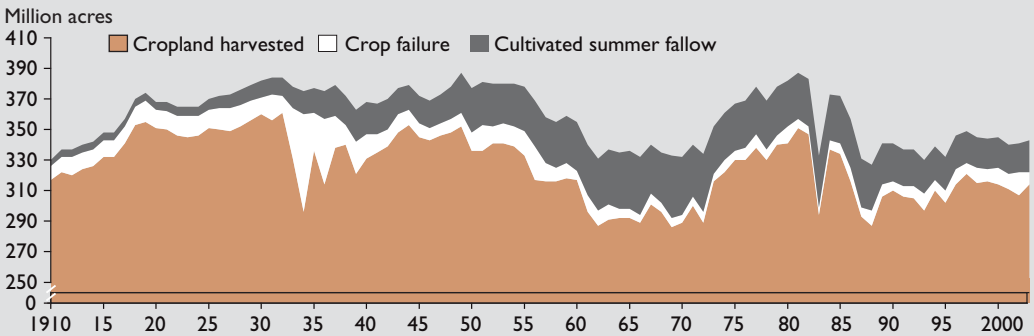


Major Uses of Land in the United States, 1997, by Marlow Vesterby and Kenneth S. Krupa, SB-973, USDA/ERS, August 2001, available at: www.ers.usda.gov/publications/sb973/

Crop failure is the difference between cropland planted and cropland harvested. However, some cropland planted is not intended to be harvested. Thus, adjustments are made to account for cover crops, crops grazed, and crops cut for hay. Data for these adjustments are from the *Crop Production Annual Summary* and the Census.

Cultivated summer fallow occurs predominantly in the Great Plains where it is a practice used to conserve moisture and control weeds. Fields are typically planted and harvested one year and summer fallowed the next. Acreage estimates are obtained from NASS, the Census of Agriculture, or the Conservation Technology Information Center. When no data are available, ERS estimates summer fallow based on the acreage of wheat in the major summer-fallow States. The use of summer fallow has slowly declined over the last 30 years, due mostly to the increased adoption of conservation tillage and herbicides, which reduce the need for summer fallow to conserve moisture and control weeds.

Cropland used for crops has remained relatively constant for the last 90 years, though it varied by as much as 14 percent from year to year



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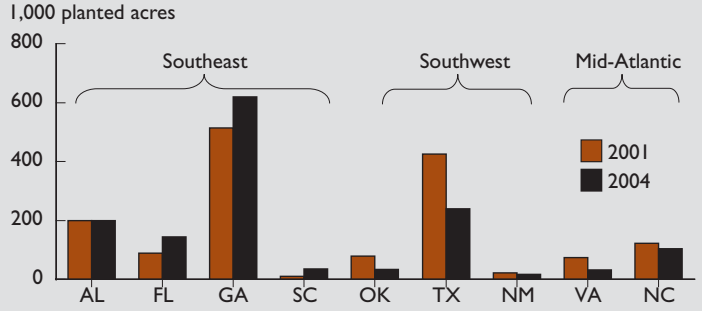
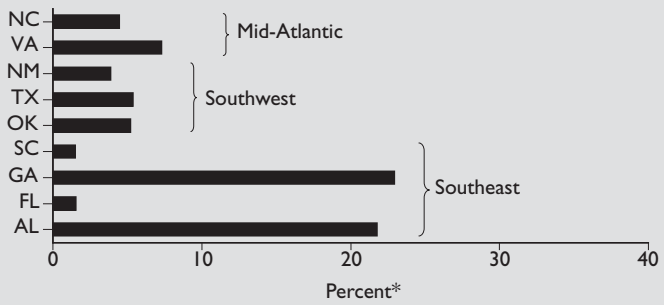
For more information, see the Major Uses of Land chapter of the ERS Briefing Room on Land Use, Value, and Management, available at: www.ers.usda.gov/briefing/landuse/majorlandusechapter.htm/

Markets and Trade

Following the 2002 Farm Act, peanut production declined in the Southwest and Mid-Atlantic, but climbed in the Southeast...



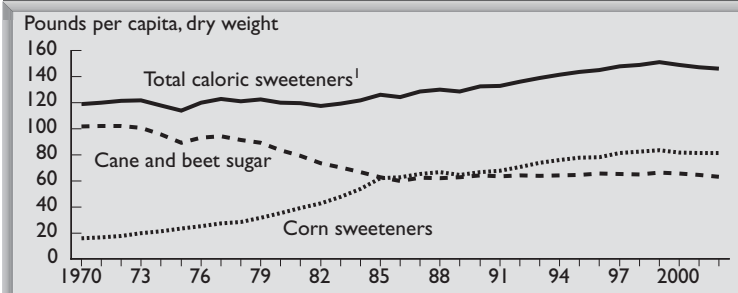
...where peanut production had traditionally been a relatively big part of the agricultural economy*



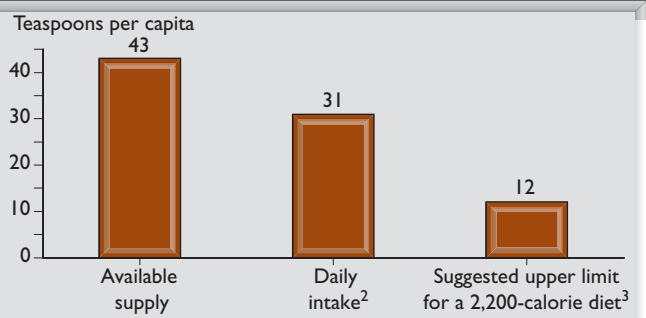
* Peanut share of State's overall value of agricultural output, pre-2002 Farm Act (2000/01-2001/02 average).
Source: USDA's National Agricultural Statistics Service, *Acreage, Crop Production*, and *Crop Values, 2002 Summary*.

Diet and Health

While fairly steady during the 1970s, U.S. per capita caloric sweetener consumption jumped 25 percent between 1982 and 2002...



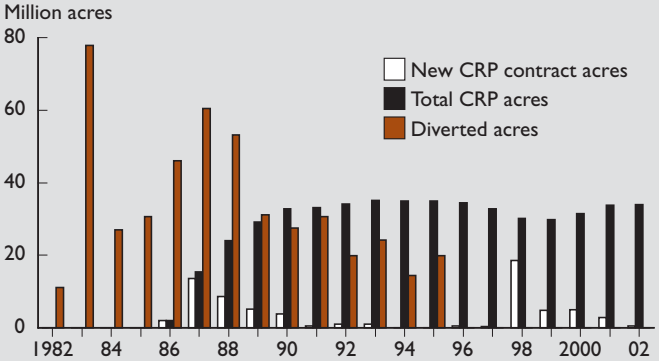
...to the point where per capita daily intake was two and a half times the suggested upper limit for a 2,200-calorie diet



[1] Includes honey and edible syrups not shown separately. [2] Daily intake is the available supply adjusted for spoilage, plate waste, and other losses.
[3] *The Food Guide Pyramid*, Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, USDA, 1996.

Resources and Environment

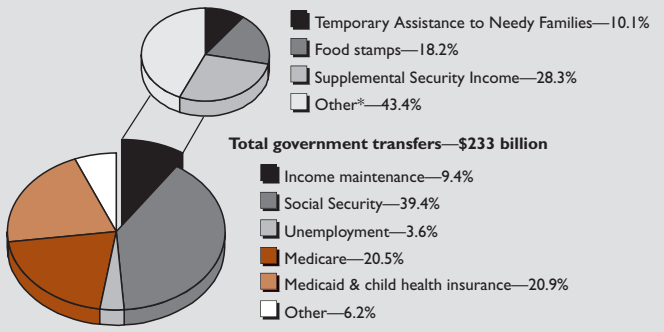
As CRP enrollment expanded, there was a decline in diversion of other cropland from production



Source: USDA's Farm Service Agency.

Rural America

In 2002, income maintenance was less than 10 percent of government transfers to nonmetro residents



*Consists largely of general assistance, refugee assistance, foster home care and adoption assistance, earned income tax credits, and energy assistance.
Source: Calculated by ERS using data from the Bureau of Economic Analysis.

On the Map

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollments shift geographically.

Today, nearly 35 million acres of environmentally sensitive cropland are enrolled in the CRP. Total acreage hasn't changed much since 1990, but the geographic distribution of enrolled acres has shifted. About half of current CRP land is re-enrollment of land originally enrolled between 1986 and 1992; the remainder is newly enrolled land. The distribution shifted eastward between 1991 and 1996 as new bid selection rules encouraged Corn Belt land enrollment. As original CRP contracts started expiring in 1997, enrollment shifted westward as commodity market conditions and bid selection rules led to increased enrollment in the Northern Plains and less re-enrollment in the Southeast.

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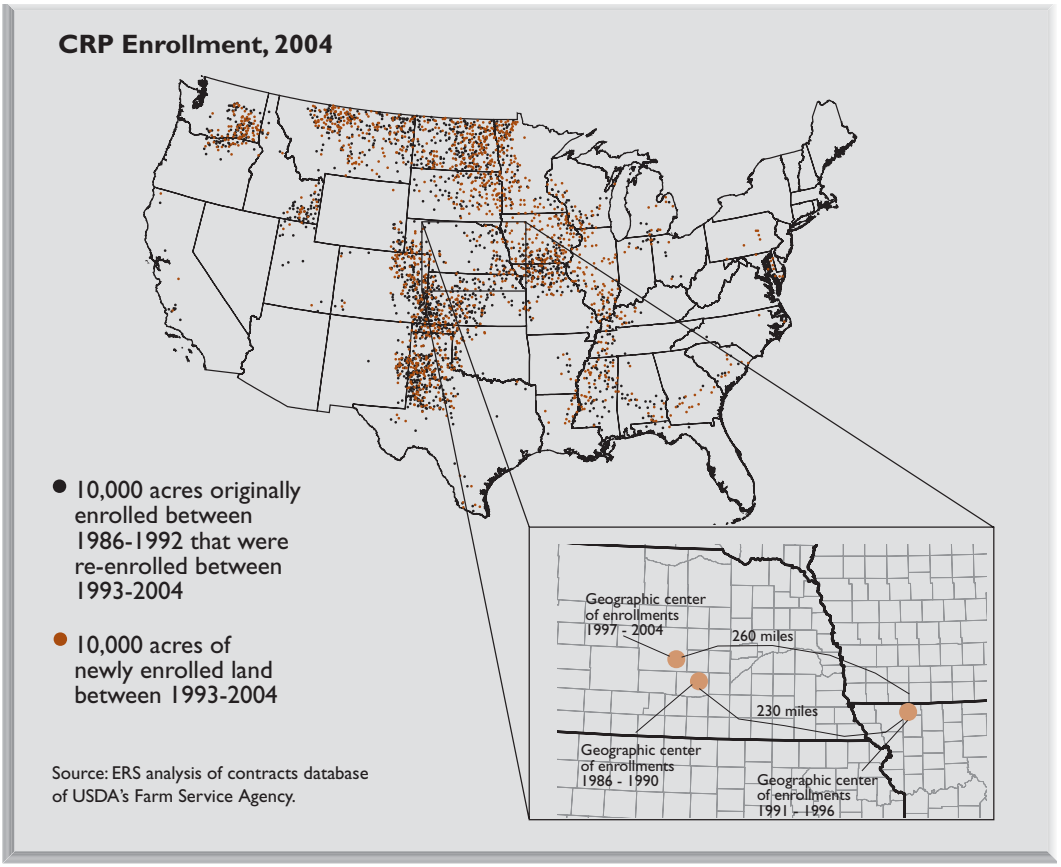

In the Long Run

Canadian pork exports surge when Canadian dollar is weak relative to U.S. dollar.

The U.S. and Canada have become the world's two dominant pork-exporting countries over the last 34 years, accounting for over 40 percent of world pork trade in 2003. Over that period, a generally weak real Canadian dollar (adjusted for inflation) has helped Canadian pork exports. In general, Canadian pork exports have increased more rapidly than U.S. pork exports during periods characterized by a weak Canadian dollar (1977-86; 1992-2002), and U.S. pork exports have increased more rapidly than Canadian exports during periods of a strong Canadian dollar (1971-76; 1987-91; 2003-04).

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